



Weekend

DEC. 31, 2003 - JAN. 4, 2004

Opting Out: Ashcroft steps aside from CIA leak probe | **3**

Genocide: Former Cambodia leader confirms '70s killings | **6**

Roomier Ride: Metro may add cars to off-peak trains | **7**



MOURNING: An Iranian woman cries for a victim of Friday's earthquake. Iran's leader said U.S. aid won't resolve tensions. **World** | Page 6

ENTERTAINMENT

Ring in the New:

Your one-stop shop for New Year's Eve theme parties, club events and concerts. Plus, family fun at the Auto Show.



>> **15-18**

Weather > Mostly Sunny



53 | 34

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE TWO

NEW YEAR | SAFETY FIRST



NIGHT WATCH: A woman curiously eyes a New York police officer patrolling Times Square on Monday. The area, along with other high-profile sites, will see increased security for New Year's Eve celebrations. ♦ **Fly, Drive and Be Merry:** Ridge encourages Americans to travel | Page 3

'Risky' Ephedra to Be Banned

WASHINGTON | The Bush administration is banning the sale of ephedra early next year, and urged consumers Tuesday to immediately stop using the herbal stimulant that has been linked to 155 deaths and dozens of heart attacks and strokes.

It was the government's first-ever ban on a dietary supplement, one that comes eight years after the Food and Drug Administration first began receiving reports that ephedra could be dangerous.

"The time to stop taking these products is now," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said. "They are simply

too risky to be used."

Ephedra once was hugely popular for weight loss and body building. But it can cause life-threatening side effects because the stimulant speeds the heart rate and constricts blood vessels.

It is particularly risky for anyone with heart disease or high blood pressure or people engaging in strenuous exercise.

Sales of ephedra products have plummeted because of publicity about the herb's dangers, which peaked after the ephedra-related death of Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler in February. LAURAN NEERGAARD (AP)

RESCUES | Paper Weight A man who says he sells books and magazines on the street was rescued after being trapped for two days under a mountain of reading material in his New York City apartment. Patrice Moore, 43, had apparently been standing up when the books, catalogs, mail and newspapers swamped him Saturday. Firefighters and neighbors rescued Moore on Monday; he was hospitalized and in stable condition Tuesday with leg injuries. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

Spurrier: So Long, Redskins

Coach calls it quits after second disappointing year

WASHINGTON | Steve Spurrier resigned as coach of the Washington Redskins on Tuesday, ending a failed attempt to bring his Fun 'n' Gun offense to the NFL.

"This is a very demanding job," Spurrier said in a prepared statement. "It's a long grind and I feel that after 20 years as a head coach, there are other things that I need to do."

Spurrier quit three days after the Redskins finished 5-11 by losing 10 of their last 12 games. His record was 12-20 over two seasons.

"I simply believe that this is the right time for me to move on, because this team needs new leadership," he said. "I've enjoyed my time in Washington. Obviously, all of the losing can wear you down, but I believe that the franchise is headed in the right direction."

The coach called owner Dan Snyder on Tuesday morning to offer his resignation, and Snyder accepted with "much regret," according to the team.

Spurrier walks away from the final three years of a five-year, \$25 million contract, the richest ever for an NFL coach. JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

♦ **End game:** Spurrier's resignation was as baffling as his offensive strategy | Page 9



Steve Spurrier on his two seasons as Redskins coach: "All of the losing can wear you down."



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE: Express will not publish on Thursday or Friday because of the New Year holiday. We'll resume our usual schedule on Monday.

EyeOpeners

RECORDS

Ravenous Reptile

Tourists are warily checking out a new exhibit at a recreation park in Kendal, Indonesia, featuring a 49-foot python — the longest such snake ever captured. The dark-colored male has a diameter of 2.8 feet and weighs 984 pounds, exhibit officials told Reuters. If you're planning to go, don't bring Fido. The unnamed snake really likes dogs. "This snake swallows up dogs," handler Imam Darmanto told Reuters. "In a month, it can eat around five dogs." (AP)



LAW

Private Eyes

It may be legal to appear naked in cyberspace, but police ticketed a Lincoln, Neb., woman for posting nude pictures of herself on the Web that were taken in a local bar. Melissa J. Harrington, 21, was ticketed Monday

for violating Lincoln's public nudity ordinance by posting pictures on her Web site "showing her naked at one of our downtown bars and in several other locations around the city," Police Chief Tom Casady said. If convicted, she faces six months in jail and a \$500 fine. (AP)

POLITICS

Psst ... Wanna Be A Representative?

Hoping to stop state Rep. Gary Haluska from winning a sixth term, local Republicans have taken the

unusual step of placing a classified ad in a newspaper seeking state House hopefuls. Republicans have about a month to gather the 300 signatures on nominating petitions, spurring county GOP Chairman Robert

A. Gleason Jr., to cast a wide net for candidates. Enticements include \$62,000 a year, a leased car, mileage paid and a pension. "It's not a bad job, and it's well paid for a little bit of work," said Gleason. (AP)

NEW YEAR'S

Reverse Glasnost

This New Year's Eve, a few well-off Muscovites will plunge back into the "good old" Soviet times, riding a wave of nostalgia for the Soviet Union 13 years after its collapse. Revelers will spend a night "Back in the USSR" at a VIP party at a restaurant in one of the shopping malls that have sprouted around Moscow. For a hefty \$500 per person, guests will be greeted by actors portraying Soviet leaders and be entertained by Soviet-era singers. (AP)

ANIMAL WATCH

Pick of the Litter

The product selected for this year's Pet Products News Editor's Choice Award claims it'll leave cat owners with less poop to



scoop. Kevin Rymer of Oklahoma's Evolve Products accepted the award Monday for his company's Feline Evolution CatSeat — a device purported to help cats learn to use the toilet rather than a litter box. Shaped like a regular toilet seat, it is attached to a box with retractable shelves that are textured to replace the feel of litter. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

Today
Hi 53
Lo 34



Thurs.
Hi 52
Lo 37



Fri.
Hi 45
Lo 42



Sat.
Hi 62
Lo 47



Sun.
Hi 56
Lo 40



UV Index (for solar noon)
2 out of 10, minimal

Air Quality Index (AQI)
AQI Today: Not available

Pollen Index (Yesterday)
Reading: Main offender: Not available

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9-7 SATURDAY

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Retired General to Oversee Tribunals for Terror Suspects

A retired Army general will oversee military tribunals for suspected terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including approving charges, the Pentagon said Tuesday. John D. Altenburg, Jr., who retired as a two-star general in 2002, was chosen for the job. None of the 660 suspected terrorists held at Guantanamo has been charged, and although the Pentagon has not said when it will begin the trials, the first is expected soon. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Recovering Powell Returns To State Department Office

Secretary of State Colin Powell returned to work at the State Department Tuesday, 15 days after surgery for prostate cancer. Powell presided at a staff meeting and made telephone calls to Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to the president of Sudan. Powell is expected to have a full recovery. (AP)



Powell

LUMBERTON, N.C.

Girl Killed in Her Sleep During Drive-By Shooting

An 11-year-old girl was killed in her sleep in a drive-by shooting at her sister's mobile home. Fourth-grader Nicole Oxendine, who was visiting her 23-year-old sister for the Christmas holiday, was struck in the head by a bullet Monday. Investigators said they had no motive. (AP)

ORANGE ALERT | ON GUARD



LAURA ROUCH/AP

SAFETY PATROL: Las Vegas Metro Police officers Thomas Ferranola, left, Eric Ravelo and Bryan Peterson patrol the tourist area of Freemont Street in downtown Las Vegas on Wednesday. The officers were placed on patrol due to heightened security because of the threat of terrorism.

Ashcroft Drops Out Of CIA Leak Probe

Justice Department names prosecutor to head up investigation

WASHINGTON | Attorney General John Ashcroft on Tuesday recused himself from the politically-sensitive investigation of who leaked the name of a CIA operative. The Justice Department quickly named a special prosecutor to take over the investigation.

The announcement was made by James Comey, the department's new No. 2 official, at the Justice Department. He called the new top prosecutor "Elliot Ness with a Harvard law degree and a sense of humor."

The U.S. attorney in Chicago, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, will take over

the investigation and report to Comey, who is Ashcroft's top deputy.

"He has the power and authority to make whatever prosecutorial judgment he needs," Comey said.

This will not be Fitzgerald's first high-profile investigation. He oversaw the investigation of former Illinois Gov. George Ryan, a



Ashcroft

Republican who was indicted this month on 22 counts of corruption, including taking free vacations, tax fraud, lying to federal agents and skimming cash out

of his own campaign fund. Ryan pleaded innocent a week ago.

Comey did not say exactly what evidence necessitated the recusal.

LARRY MARGASAK (AP)

Ashcroft's decision: More on the attorney general's recusal from the CIA leak case and how it may affect the probe's progress | washingtonpost.com/politics

U.S. Announces Beef Restrictions

WASHINGTON | Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman on Tuesday announced a list of new restrictions to enhance the safety of the U.S. beef supply, including a meatpacking ban on the use of sick "downer" cattle like the one discovered last week with mad cow disease.

"Sound science continues to be our guide," Veneman said. (AP)

Ridge Reassures New Year's Revelers

WASHINGTON | Americans should carry on with New Year's Eve celebrations despite the national terror alert system's elevation to "Code Orange," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Tuesday.

The level of security in the United States right now is "absolutely unprecedented," Ridge told CBS's "The Early Show." He said some signs of extra security will

be visible, while others will be less obvious.

In New York, the federal government will provide helicopters to help protect revelers during the New Year's Eve party in Times Square.

It was not revealed how many helicopters would be made available



Ridge

from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or how they would be deployed.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the Federal Aviation Administration has imposed temporary flight bans over parts of the city during gatherings like the New Year's Eve celebration, the July 4 fireworks show and the Sept. 11 anniversary. (AP)



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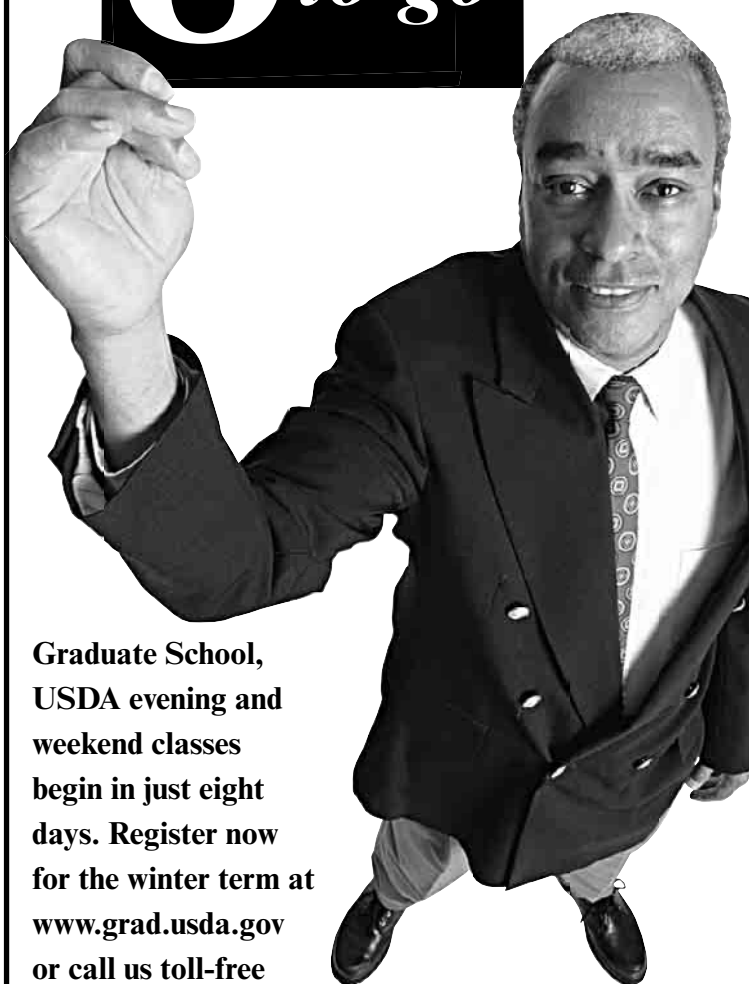
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Nation

Dean Asks Democratic Leader to Protect Him

WASHINGTON | Infighting between Howard Dean and some of his rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination has gotten so nasty of late that Dean called on party chairman Terry McAuliffe to step in and tone things down. In the process, Dean managed to insult McAuliffe.

Republican strategists, meanwhile, are watching it all with barely contained glee.

"They are beginning to really gouge this guy," Republican pollster Bill McInturff said about

Dean, chuckling. "Look at Howard Dean and, as a Republican, think about the advertising we're going to run."

In complaining over the weekend about the attacks, Dean wound up criticizing McAuliffe when he said a strong party leader would intervene to keep him from getting beat up.

"If we had strong leadership in the Democratic Party, it would be calling the other candidates and saying somebody has to win here," Dean said Sunday. WILL LESTER (AP)

CRASH | SHATTERED CLASS



JULIE SMITH/NEWS-TRIBUNE/AP

LIGHTS OUT: A 600-pound antique chandelier fell to the floor Tuesday inside the Missouri Capitol's Senate chamber in Jefferson City, crashing through an 85-year old bench. Workers had been checking light bulbs in the fixture before a new legislative session convenes next week. No one was hurt.

Magnesium Fire Still Flaring in Ohio

GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO | A magnesium fire at a metals recycling plant diminished to pockets of flames and smoke Tuesday, a day after towering, white-hot flames engulfed the complex and explosions shot sparks into the sky.

Since magnesium can explode after it touches water, the only choice was to let the fire burn out, which could take until Tuesday evening, Fire Chief Tony Collova said. Smaller magnesium fires are often put out with sand.

The fire that began Monday afternoon at Garfield Alloys in



Pockets of magnesium continue to burn at Garfield Alloys on Tuesday.

an industrial park 10 miles southeast of Cleveland destroyed two of the company's three buildings and a neighboring heating company, Fire Chief Tony Collova said. (AP)

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World

Iran Thanks U.S. for Its Aid

Khatami says 'chronic' problems remain, however

BAM, IRAN | As survivors of Iran's earthquake scavenged for clothes and jostled for handouts Tuesday, President Mohammad Khatami thanked the United States for aid but played down talk that Washington's contribution would thaw frosty relations.

"Humanitarian issues should not be intertwined with deep and chronic political problems," Khatami said. "If we see change both in tone and behavior of the U.S. administration, then a new situation will develop in our relations."

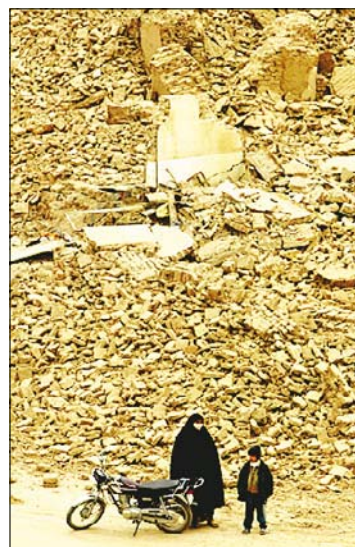
Since the quake, the United States has sent at least eight Air Force cargo planes to Iran carrying 150,000 pounds of relief supplies, including blankets, medical supplies and water. The aid comes even though Iran and the United States severed diplomatic ties after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and President Bush has branded the country as part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and North Korea.

Meanwhile, new aid or pledges of aid continued to arrive. The six Arab states that face Iran across

the Persian Gulf committed \$400 million to the reconstruction of the devastated city of Bam.

International relief workers said they were shifting their focus in Bam from searching for survivors to helping the injured — and burying the corpses still being pulled from the rubble.

The death toll from Friday's 6.6-magnitude quake rose to 28,000, said the coordinator of U.N. relief operations, Ted Peran. At least 12,000 people were injured, the Health Ministry said, and there were fears the death toll could rise to 40,000. MATTHEW PENNINGTON (AP)



On Tuesday, a woman and her child stand amid the rubble of last Friday's earthquake in the ancient city of Bam. FATH SARIBAS/REUTERS

11 Injured as Israel Hits At Hamas

Latest strike raises fears that violence in region will escalate

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP | An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles at a car carrying militants from the Hamas group late Tuesday, wounding at least 11 people and raising fears of an intensification of violence.

Israel's military issued a statement saying the targets were "senior Hamas terrorists ... actively engaged in planning terror attacks." Hamas officials said one of the people in the car was a midlevel commander, Jamal Jara. It was not clear if he was among the wounded.

Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin said Israel would pay a heavy price for the attack. The strike undermines an informal arrangement in which Israel avoided trying to kill Hamas militants as long as the group halts attacks on civilians inside Israel. Neither side had acknowledged that such an agreement existed.

Continued violence has frozen efforts to implement the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which also requires the Palestinians to dismantle groups responsible for three years of attacks against Israelis. IBRAHIM BARZAK (AP)

BULGARIA | COALITION CASUALTIES



LINE OF DUTY: In Sofia on Tuesday, mourners pay their respects at the funeral for the five Bulgarian soldiers killed in Iraq on Saturday when a suicide car bomber attacked and destroyed the Bulgarian military headquarters in Karbala. STOVAN NENOV/REUTERS

HEARSAY | WHODUNIT

"[I]t was Florence. We are confirming that it wasn't Dotty."

—SPOKESMAN, BRITAIN'S ROYAL HOUSEHOLD SAYING, ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, THAT DOTTY, PRINCESS ANNE'S BULL TERRIER, DIDN'T FATALLY MAUL A CORGI BELONGING TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II LAST WEEK. INSTEAD, THE PALACE POINTED THE BLAME AT ONE OF ANNE'S OTHER TERRIERS, FLORENCE.

Ex-Khmer Rouge Acknowledges Genocide

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA | A former Khmer Rouge leader acknowledged Tuesday there is "no more doubt left" that his regime committed genocide, the first admission of the communist group's collective guilt.

Khieu Samphan's statement is a major step in the effort to bring to justice those responsible for the deaths of 1.7 million people during the group's 1975-79 rule.

U.N. and Cambodian officials tentatively agreed this month to set up a tribunal to prosecute war crimes. A former head of state and one of the few Khmer Rouge leaders still alive, Khieu Samphan is certain to be indicted.

He said he never ordered any killings and insisted he only recently learned from a film about the extent of the Khmer Rouge's crimes. (AP)

In Brief

PAKISTAN

Senate Passes Bill Granting Musharraf Sweeping Powers

Constitutional changes that grant President Gen. Pervez Musharraf extraordinary powers in return for a promise to step down as army commander by the end of 2004 cleared their final legislative hurdle Tuesday, winning support of a divided Senate chamber. Officials say Musharraf is expected to sign it immediately. Critics insist the deal, which amends the constitution to give the general the power to sack the prime minister and disband parliament, is further window-dressing on what is essentially military rule. (AP)

IRAQ

Roadside Bomb Kills Civilian

A roadside bomb that was apparently intended for a passing U.S. military convoy missed its target Tuesday, exploding in a densely populated Baghdad neighborhood and killing an Iraqi civilian. Bystanders said the Iraqi who died had worked in a nearby shop. No U.S. troops were wounded in the attack in the Karrada neighborhood. (AP)

PHILIPPINES

2 Americans With Alleged Al Qaeda Ties to Be Deported

The Philippines said Tuesday it will deport two American brothers arrested for suspected links to local Muslim militants and al-Qaeda-linked charities, one of whom was a technician at a nuclear weapons lab near San Francisco. Michael Ray Stubbs, who was arrested with his brother James, worked at the lab for about 10 years ending in 2000. Philippines officials said there was no evidence linking the two to any terrorist plots, but said James Stubbs called for the overthrow of the U.S. government. James Stubbs called the charges "fabricated lies." (AP)



Michael Ray Stubbs, left, and his brother James are escorted by Philippines soldiers in Manila on Tuesday. ROMEO RANOCO/REUTERS

The Lotteries

December 30

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	9-0-0
Evening Lucky Numbers	3-2-6
Mid-day DC 4	8-8-1-9
Evening DC 4	5-2-5-9
Quick Cash	19-29-32-27-21-05
Hot Five	10-19-29-24-30

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	4-7-4
Evening Pick 3	6-7-4
Mid-day Pick 4	3-9-0-8
Evening Pick 4	3-9-6-5
Match 5	03-08-14-16-27 Bonus: 04

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	8-8-9
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	3-4-6
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	2-5-5-1
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	0-6-6-8
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	07-10-20-22-32
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	2-8-13-22-34

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

WASHING UP | ONE-PERSON JOB



SEASONAL MIX: A lone window washer atop the Capitol dome performs a job usually left for spring during an unusually warm day in D.C. on Tuesday.

Father, 2 Children Die in Virginia Fire

FALLS CHURCH, VA. | A father and his two children were killed Tuesday when an early morning fire started in a dry Christmas tree and ripped through their home, fire officials said.

Authorities identified the

father as Claudio G. Melgar, 45, and the two children as Claudio A. Melgar, 25, and Beatriz Melgar, 14. According to fire officials, six other people inside the home managed to escape, including Claudio Melgar's wife. (AP)

Metro Could Add To Midday Service

WASHINGTON | Four-car mid-day Metrorail trains may not be enough. The transit agency is considering adding more cars after getting complaints from riders about a standing-room-only subway commute during midday hours, Metro officials said.

Between Nov. 24 and April 12, the transit agency cuts six-car trains back to four from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on the Red, Orange, Green and Blue lines. Officials cite traditional drops in ridership. The Yellow Line runs four-car trains year-round.

According to Metro, midday ridership on Tuesday, Nov. 4 was 125,722. Ridership on Tuesday, Dec. 9 was 119,274 after service was cut back.

Midday ridership was even

higher on Dec. 23 at 131,661. That's close to midday averages in the 140,000s in July and 125,000 in September.

Jim Hughes, Metro's director of operations planning, said as a rule the agency doesn't run six cars until the ridership reaches into the 130,000s. Hughes said ridership on Fridays has been unusually high — ranging from 125,000 to more than 140,000 this month and last.

But Metro officials note they have to think twice about adding cars because of the budget crunch the agency is facing. Despite an estimated \$30 million in proposed in-house cuts, the agency still faces an estimated \$29 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2005, which begins in July. CANDACE SMITH (AP)



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there's something on.

Money

FedEx Plans to Buy Kinko's for \$2.4B

MEMPHIS, TENN. | Package shipping giant FedEx Corp. agreed to buy the Kinko's copy shop chain for \$2.4 billion in cash, the companies announced Tuesday.

The seller is buyout firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Inc., which owns about 75 percent of privately held Kinko's outstanding shares.

FedEx has been Kinko's exclusive shipping provider since 1988 and already staffs counters in 134 of Kinko's 1,200 stores. After the purchase, FedEx plans to have full-service counters in all Kinko's stores.

The Kinko's management team is expected to remain in place, and company headquarters will continue to be located in Dallas.

No decision has been made on whether Kinko's shops will keep that name, FedEx said.



A Kinko's store in Philadelphia displays a sign for its future owner, FedEx.

Rival UPS acquired Mail Boxes Etc. in 2001 and earlier this year announced plans to rename the 3,330 Mail Boxes Etc. franchises across the country The UPS Store.

Kinko's has more than 110 stores in international markets.

WOODY BAIRD (AP)

In Brief

AIRLINES

America West Pilots OK New Contract With Raise

America West pilots voted to ratify a new three-year contract Tuesday, giving the pilots an immediate 11 percent raise and resolving nearly four years of negotiations between the two sides. The Air Line Pilots Association said 53 percent of its America West members voted in favor of the contract, the third tentative agreement put before pilots this year. The union and company officials have said a key change in the now-approved contract was the extension of long-term disability benefits and retirement benefits. (AP)

CORPORATE SCANDALS

Russian Oil Magnate and Company Slapped With Fine

In a fresh blow to Russian oil giant Yukos and its jailed former leader Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the Tax Ministry on Tuesday slapped on a \$3.3 billion bill for back taxes, fines and other penalties. The ministry said Yukos had dodged taxes by setting up a network of affiliated companies that claimed tax breaks it described as unlawful. Yukos has been the target of a far-ranging government probe that reached a peak with the Oct. 25 arrest of Khodorkovsky on charges of tax evasion and fraud. (AP)



Khodorkovsky

Parmalat Founder to Remain in Jail

MILAN, ITALY | After Parmalat's founder admitted his company was drained of hundreds of millions of dollars, a judge on Tuesday ordered him jailed pending trial in what U.S. regulators called "one of the largest and most brazen corporate financial frauds in history."

The ruling came after Calisto Tanzi spent another day under questioning from prosecutors try-

ing to shed light on the financial crisis that put the milk and juice giant, Italy's eighth largest company, into bankruptcy. His lawyers said he has conceded that hundreds of millions were shifted to businesses also owned by the Tanzi family.

But Tanzi continued to insist that any illegal acts had been carried out by top financial managers on their own initiative. TOM RACHMAN (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Miller h	7.58	+1.15	+17.9
SfgdSci	4.18	+ .48	+13.0
UtdAuto	31.31	+3.31	+11.8
RehabCG	23.01	+2.36	+11.4
ComfrtS	5.68	+ .41	+7.8

Losers

TerraNitro	4.83	-.72	-13.0
FrankCov	2.62	-.33	-11.2
HuttigBld	2.91	-.22	-7.0
Guess	12.00	-.89	-6.9
Trump	2.12	-.15	-6.6

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00
Fed Funds close	1.00	1.00
3-month	0.92	0.88
2-year	1.84	1.85
10-year	4.26	4.26
30-year	5.07	5.05

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ChrVisn	3.92	+2.69	+218.4
UbiquiTI	2.66	+ .66	+33.0
OptCable	6.60	+1.18	+21.8
Cosi Inc	2.75	+ .49	+21.7
TrnBio	6.19	+1.05	+20.4

Losers

TropSprt	2.21	-.42	-16.0
ACE CO	2.31	-.29	-11.2
CFC Intl	5.30	-.66	-11.1
ClMaine	38.92	-4.67	-10.7
Oilgear	4.20	-.50	-10.6

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5622	.5640	.6228
Canadian Dollar	1.2936	1.3103	1.5782
European Euro	.7969	.8007	.9540
Japanese Yen	107.06	106.91	118.47
Mexican Peso	11.2220	11.2200	10.4670
Taiwanese Dollar	34.04	34.06	34.83

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-24.96	+3.40	+0.16
-0.24	+0.17	+0.01
10425.04	2009.88	1109.64

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
ClearChan	46.22	-.64	+23.9
Comcast	32.25	-.20	+36.8
Comc sp	30.84	-.02	+36.5
CoxCom	34.59	+ .08	+21.8
Disney	23.30	-.18	+42.9
Fox Ent	28.90	+ .10	+11.5
Gannett	89.05	+ .17	+24.0
GTelevsA	40.04	-.11	+43.4
LibtyMA	11.73	-.13	+31.2
LibtyMB	13.80	+ .77	+50.0
NewsCorp	35.64	+ .43	+35.8
Omnicom	87.16	-.32	+34.9
Thomson	35.70	-.14	+33.6
Viacom	43.72	+ .18	+7.1
ViacomB	43.75	+ .28	+7.3

In Brief

PRO FOOTBALL

Minnesota Owner Plans To Bring Back Tice as Coach

Mike Tice will be back as coach of the Minnesota Vikings next season. Owner Red McCombs said Tuesday on a conference call that he never had thoughts of replacing Tice or any other members of the coaching or front-office staff, despite Sunday's crushing loss that kept the Vikings out of the playoffs.

"I don't know where all the smoke is coming from," said McCombs, who more than once this season voiced his confidence in Tice's job. "It's not coming from me." (AP)

PRO BASEBALL

Former Baltimore Pitcher Johnson Signs With Tigers

Right-hander Jason Johnson agreed Tuesday to a \$7 million, two-year contract with the Detroit Tigers. Johnson, 30, pitched the previous five seasons for Baltimore. He was the Orioles' second-winningest starter behind Sidney Ponson last season, going 10-10 with a 4.18 ERA in 189 2-3 innings. His victories matched a career high, set in 2001. (AP)

PRO BASEBALL

Orioles Reach Agreement On Deal for Pitcher DeJean

The Baltimore Orioles reached agreement Tuesday with free agent pitcher Mike DeJean on a contract for the 2004 season. The contract is contingent on his passing a physical exam early next year.

The right-handed pitcher went 5-8 with 19 saves and a 4.68 ERA in 76 games with the Milwaukee Brewers and St. Louis Cardinals in 2003. He also has compiled a 24-24 record with 52 saves and a 4.26 ERA in seven major league seasons. (AP)

HOUSTON BOWL | DIVING IN



GROUNDING: Despite this 11-yard run in the first quarter by Navy quarterback Craig Candeto, the Midshipmens' great season ended with a 38-14 loss to the Texas Tech Red Raiders Tuesday in the Houston Bowl.

A Fitting End for Spurrier

Confusion continues to reign as Redskins coach offers resignation

PRO FOOTBALL | Steve Spurrier's resignation was as confusing as his offensive strategy, adding another dysfunctional day to the recent history of the Washington Redskins.

Spurrier quit three days after the Redskins finished 5-11.

His tenure was marred by mixed messages about his coaching style, abrupt changes in offensive philosophy and disorienting audibles.

It was only fitting, then, that his

resignation took several perplexing hours to resolve — with Spurrier at one point saying he hadn't quit, even though the team said he had.

Spurrier called Snyder on Tuesday morning to resign and told the owner to work out the final details with agent Jimmy Sexton.

With Sexton in Memphis, Tenn., Snyder in Washington, and Spurrier on a golf course in Florida, the coach didn't know that all the issues had been resolved when he told The Washington Post, "I have not resigned."

Minutes later, after hearing from his agent, Spurrier finally acknowledged he was quitting.



Steve Spurrier often looked perplexed when coaching the Redskins in 2003.

"We had a little miscommunication," Spurrier told The Associated Press. JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

LIVE ONLINE

Spurrier Quits

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Washington Post sports columnist **MICHAEL WILBON** was online Tuesday to discuss the resignation of Redskins head coach Steve Spurrier.

Can the Redskins ever gain a sense of stability with the ever-changing environment that exists around them?

No, they cannot. Environment is everything. I dread thinking of what my own career would have been like if I had a different sports editor for the first 5 years of my career, which is essentially what LaVar Arrington and Champ Bailey have had. It just doesn't work.

Is it too much to hope that Daniel Snyder will listen, really listen, to people this time — including players — and not go after the biggest available name? He's been star-struck since Day One — Marty, Deion, Spurrier — and look where it's gotten him, and us.

I don't know that he is going to change overnight, but I think that the celebrity coach method is seriously flawed. I know you are going to hear the name Jimmy Johnson for the next few days. But I talked to Jimmy last week and he said no chance. Not only to this but to the Giants.

At this point, do you think the Redskins should go after a defensively-oriented head coach or an offensively-oriented one?

I'm not locked into any descriptions or buzz words. You go after someone who you think has some convictions, who is going to become in short-time a great head coach.

What's your take on the Ol' Ball Coach's future? Does he take a year off? Does he go back to Florida if Zook falters? To a big-time college program, or to a small school like North Carolina?

One year off then to the University of North Carolina which was predicted six weeks ago by one Hall of Fame running back John Riggins.

Shakeup: Columnists Tony Kornheiser, Michael Wilbon and Thomas Boswell opine on Steve Spurrier's resignation | washingtonpost.com/sports

NFL WILD CARD SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 3

- **Tennessee Titans** at Baltimore Ravens, 4:30 p.m. on ABC
- **Dallas Cowboys** at Carolina Panthers, 8 p.m. on ABC

Sunday, Jan. 4

- **Seattle Seahawks** at Green Bay Packers, 1 p.m. on Fox
- **Denver Broncos** at Indianapolis Colts, 4:30 p.m. on CBS



Ravens RB Jamal Lewis is an MVP candidate after rushing for over 2,000 yards.

THIS WEEK'S TV LINEUP

PRO HOCKEY (7 p.m. Wednesday on Comcast) The Capitals end 2003 playing the Buffalo Sabres.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (12:30 p.m. Thursday on NBC) The Gator Bowl features Maryland and West Virginia in a rematch of a regular season game won by the Terps.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (4:30 p.m. Thursday on ABC) Southern Cal could win the AP's

national title if it beats Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (8 p.m. Thursday on ABC) In most years, either Miami and Florida State play for state pride in the Orange Bowl.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL (8 p.m. Sunday on ABC) Oklahoma and LSU play for the top spot in the BCS during the Sugar Bowl.

2003 | In the News

Divided We Stand

IN REVIEW | 2003 was a year of sharp divisions, driven by matters as large as war and as banal as reality TV.

Although "major combat" in Iraq officially ended after only six weeks, an Iraqi insurgency continues to bedevil U.S. troops, while those against the war remain steadfast in their opposition. Meanwhile, the battle lines at home were drawn more sharply over social issues, including affirmative action, gay rights and abortion.

After a year that saw the country's worst-ever blackout, the capture of Saddam Hussein, scandal for the likes of Michael Jackson and Rush Limbaugh, and the ascent of celebrities of no discernable talent, one can only wonder what we'll see in 2004.



LOUIS LANZANO/AP

NORTHEAST BLACKOUT | STREET SCENE: People spill out onto New York's Madison Avenue after North America's worst-ever blackout sapped power to the city, eight states and parts of Canada. The failure was eventually traced to a computer malfunction at an Ohio power company.



STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER: The actor terminated Gray Davis to become California's governor.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

JAYSON BLAIR | After igniting a plagiarism scandal at The New York Times, the 27-year-old reporter resigned May 1.

SHIRIN EBADI | The Iranian lawyer and human rights activist became the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 10.

DICK GRASSO | The chairman of the New York Stock Exchange



was forced to resign on Sept. 17 after investors learned he had amassed \$139.5 million in benefits and savings during his tenure — and wanted to cash in.

JESSICA LYNCH | Held as a prisoner of war since March 23, the 19-year-old supply clerk was rescued April 1 and was catapulted into a media blitz, complete with movie and book deals.

ESSIE MAE WASHINGTON-WILLIAMS | The 78-year-



old African-American revealed Dec. 13 that she's the daughter of the late Sen. Strom Thurmond, a former segregationist.

YANG LIWEI | China launched its first manned spacecraft Oct. 14, hurling "Taikonaut" Yang into history books and making China the third nation after Russia and the United States to send a person into space.

Shock, Awe and Aftermath



GORAN TOMASEVIC/REUTERS

FIRE, POWER | BOMBS OVER BAGHDAD: Explosions rock Baghdad during air strikes on March 21 as U.S.-led forces unleash a devastating blitz on the city, slamming missiles into the main palace complex of President Saddam Hussein.

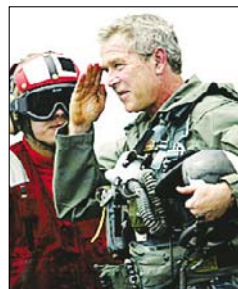
IRAQ | Saddam Hussein crawled from his "spider hole" in December, but Iraq remains unsettled amid attacks by insurgents and the daunting task of rebuilding. So far, 478 U.S. troops have died in Iraq.

JAN. 27 | The Bush administration dismisses Iraq's response to U.N. disarmament demands.

FEB. 14 | Major powers in U.N. Security Council insist inspections be given more time.

FEB. 24 | Britain, Spain submit resolution to Security Council declaring that Saddam missed "final opportunity" to disarm.

MARCH 19 | **PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH** declares war on Iraq.



APRIL 7 | U.S. troops roll into Baghdad, taking over major roads and settling into a presidential palace.

MAY 1 | President Bush lands aboard aircraft carrier, left, and declares major combat over.

MAY 22 | U.N. Security Council gives U.S. and Britain mandate to rule Iraq.

JULY 13 | Iraq's Governing Council holds first meeting.

JULY 22 | Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay die in a hail of gunfire and rockets in the northern city of Mosul.

AUG. 19 | Suicide bomb strikes U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, killing 23, including top U.N. envoy.

DEC. 14 | **SADDAM HUSSEIN** is captured in cramped underground hideout in Iraqi countryside.



2003 | TIMELINE

JAN. 7 | President Bush unveils \$674 billion economic stimulus plan.

JAN. 10 | North Korea withdraws from the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

FEB. 1 | The **SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA** disintegrates during descent; seven astronauts die.



DR. SCOTT LIEBERMAN/TYLER TELEGRAPH/AP

FEB. 21 | Rhode Island nightclub ignites during rock concert, killing 100.

MAY 2 | India and Pakistan agree to restore full diplomatic ties.

MAY 5 | Tornadoes kill 40 in Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee.

MAY 17 | Terrorists set off explosions in Casablanca, Morocco, killing at least 40.

JUNE 2 | Federal Communications

Commission eases limits on media ownership.

JUNE 23 | Supreme Court allows colleges to select students based in part on race.

JUNE 26 | Supreme Court strikes down state bans on homosexual sex.

JUNE 27 | More than 735,000 people register with national do-not-call list.

JULY 7 | Judge approves \$750 million

fine against WorldCom for accounting scandal.

AUG. 11 | Charles Taylor resigns as Liberia's president and goes into exile in Nigeria.

AUG. 21 | Palestinian militants abandon truce after Israel kills Hamas leader in missile attack.

SEPT. 25 | France says nearly 15,000 killed by summer heat wave.

AROUND THE REGION

FEB. 15-18 | Washington is blanketed with nearly two feet of snow — the area's fifth largest snow storm on record.

MARCH 5 | The first of a yearlong series of arson fires is set. By November, investigators have linked blazes in D.C., Prince George's County, Md., and Alexandria, Va.

MARCH 19 | Dwight Watson, a North Carolina farmer who created chaos for commuters after he drove his tractor into a pond near the Washington Monument to protest farm policies, surrenders to police.

JULY 24 | A group of D.C. residents and city officials sues the federal government for blocking a commuter tax on Virginia and Maryland residents who work in the city.

JULY 22 | A federal judge overturns a guilty verdict in the trial of Jay Lentz, a former naval officer charged with killing his wife, after the jury sees evidence previously ruled inadmissible.



AUG. 4 | Metro riders are handed their first copies of The Washington Post's commuter newspaper, **EXPRESS**.

AUG. 22 | Thousands celebrate the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin

Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

SEPT. 18 | **HURRICANE ISABEL** hits the region, closing down Metro and leaving thousands



This Vienna, Va., home was among the many damaged as Hurricane Isabel blew through the region, toppling trees and downing power lines.

without power for more than a week.

OCT. 2 | A mercury spill begins a two-month ordeal for students at Ballou High School.

OCT. 7 | Former Washington Teachers Union President Barbara Bullock pleads guilty to laundering \$2.5 million.

OCT. 9 | Montgomery County institutes a ban on smoking in bars and restaurants. Rockville later adds its own smoking ban.

DEC. 4 | Baltimore prosecutor Jonathan Luna's body is found in a Pennsylvania creek. He had been stabbed dozens of times.

DEC. 22 | Customers return to the Brentwood postal facility for the first time since the facility was contaminated with anthrax-laced letters nearly two years earlier.



SARS | **HONG KONG**: Girls in a ballet class wear masks to protect themselves from severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in April. The mysterious new virus came to worldwide attention in March. It spread to 29 countries, sickening 8,000 people and killing more than 800 in Asia and Canada.



TERROR | **TURKEY**: A woman is helped after an explosion outside of the British Consulate in Istanbul on Nov. 20. Bombings by groups linked to al Qaeda killed dozens of people in 2003, most of them in Islamic countries.

A Tale of Two Trials

D.C. SNIPERS | The sniper spree that terrorized the D.C. area in 2002, leaving 10 people dead and three wounded, again dominated headlines in 2003 as the two suspects, John Allen Muhammad, 42, and Lee Boyd Malvo, 18, were tried and convicted by separate Virginia juries.

JUNE 18 | Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who led the investigation to catch the snipers, resigns amid a controversy over



Muhammad

his desire to write a book about the case while still chief.

OCT. 14 | **JOHN ALLEN MUHAMMAD** goes on trial in Virginia Beach for the death of Dean

Harold Meyers, who was shot once in the head Oct. 9, 2002, outside a Manassas, Va., gas station.

OCT. 20 | In a bizarre twist, Muhammad begins a two-day stint as his own attorney. In a rambling opening statement, he denies any involvement in the sniper shootings.

OCT. 22 | Muhammad and teenage sniper suspect **LEE BOYD MALVO** appear in court at the same time when Malvo is brought in to be iden-

tified by a witness.

NOV. 10 | Malvo goes on trial in Chesapeake, Va., for the death of FBI analyst Linda Franklin, shot in a Home Depot parking lot in Falls Church on Oct. 14, 2002. Malvo pleads not guilty and his lawyers prepare an insanity defense.



Malvo

NOV. 17 | A jury convicts Muhammad on two counts of capital murder.

NOV. 24 | A jury recommends the death penalty for Muhammad; the judge sets sentencing for Feb. 12.

DEC. 18 | A jury convicts Malvo of two counts of capital murder.

DEC. 23 | A jury recommends life in prison for Malvo.



Vicky Snider, sister of sniper victim James Buchanan, expresses disappointment after a jury rejects the death penalty for Lee Boyd Malvo.



OCT. 16 | A frail Pope John Paul II celebrates his 25th anniversary as pontiff.

OCT. 24 | The last scheduled Concorde flight lands at London's Heathrow Airport.

NOV. 4 | Firefighters contain the 280,000-acre Cedar Fire, the deadliest of the **CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES**. The fires killed 22 people and scorched nearly 1 million acres in October and early November.

NOV. 17 | The United Nations suspends operations in southern and eastern Afghanistan after a series of attacks.

NOV. 25 | The Senate passes a bill adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare.

DEC. 11 | Dow Jones tops 10,000 for the first time in 18 months.

DEC. 18 | Gary Leon Ridgway, the "Green River Killer," is sentenced to four dozen life terms for killing 48 women.

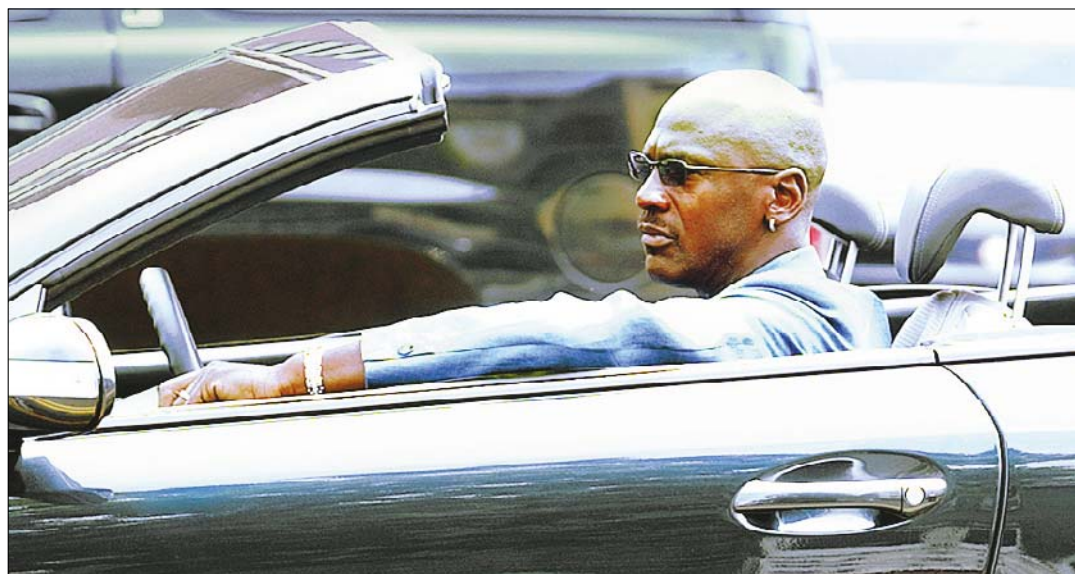


DEC. 19 | Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi agrees to halt his nation's drive to develop nuclear and chemical weapons.

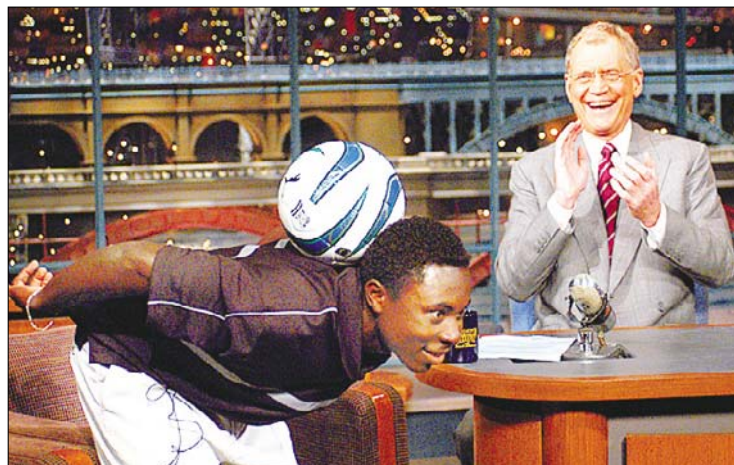
DEC. 25 | Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf survives a second assassination bid in 11 days, but 14 in his convoy are killed by two bombs.

DEC. 26 | A massive **EARTHQUAKE** hits the historic Iranian city of Bam, killing at least 28,000.

2003 In Sports



PRO BASKETBALL | MJ, WE HARDLY KNEW YOU: Michael Jordan's turbulent three-year tenure with the Washington Wizards, first as team executive and then as a player, came to an end when owner Abe Pollin informed the basketball legend that he would not be brought back as the Wizards' president of basketball operations.



SOCCER | MUCH ADU ABOUT FREDDY: 14-year-old Freddy Adu signed a deal with Major League Soccer that ensures he will play for D.C. United. Here, he performs a stupid human trick on the "Late Show With David Letterman."



REDSKINS | D'OH! In 2003, the Washington Redskins finished 5-11, and three days after the season ended, head coach Steve Spurrier resigned, leaving owner Dan Snyder searching for the team's fifth coach in five years.



PRO BASKETBALL | A NEW COURT: L.A. Lakers guard Kobe Bryant was accused of raping a hotel employee in Colorado. Bryant has pleaded not guilty, and will stand trial in 2004. The case has already turned into a media circus during pre-trial hearings.



PRO BASEBALL | RED HOT RIVALRY: In Game 3 of the American League Championship series, Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, who started the game against the Yankees' Roger Clemens, threw down New York bench coach Don Zimmer after a fight broke out on the field.

The Highlights

JAN. 3 | Ohio State's football team, led by freshman running back Maurice Clarett, upsets Miami in double overtime in the Fiesta Bowl, winning its first national title in 34 years.

JAN. 26 | The Tampa Bay Buccaneers win their first Super Bowl by defeating the Oakland Raiders.

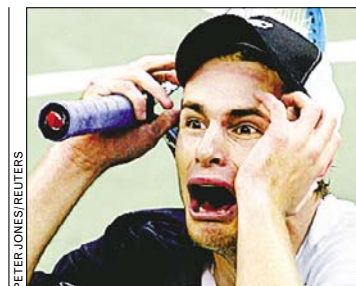
APRIL 7 | Freshman Carmelo Anthony leads the Syracuse men's basketball team to the NCAA title with an 81-78 win over Kansas.

MAY 3 | Funny Cide becomes the first gelding since 1929 to win the Kentucky Derby. The horse would later win the Preakness.

MAY 22 | Annika Sorenstam becomes the first woman to play in a PGA event in 58 years when she shoots a 71 in the first round of the Colonial.

JUNE 9 | The New Jersey Devils claim the Stanley Cup with a victory in Game 7 of the series against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

JUNE 15 | The San Antonio Spurs give center David Robinson a great retirement present — the NBA



championship — with an 88-77 win over the New Jersey Nets.

JULY 20 | Playing in his first major golf championship, Ben Curtis wins the British Open.

JULY 27 | Cyclist Lance Armstrong rolls to his record-tying fifth-straight Tour de France title.

SEPT. 7 | **ANDY RODDICK** (above) wins his first Grand Slam title, beating Juan Carlos Ferrero in the U.S. Open.

OCT. 25 | The Florida Marlins complete their upset victory over the New York Yankees in the World Series.

OCT. 29 | In his NBA debut, 18-year-old LeBron James proves he really is that good by scoring 25 points.

The Lowlights

JUNE 3 | Chicago Cubs slugger **SAMMY SOSA** (right) is ejected for using a corked bat.

JULY 27 | Medical examiners identify a slain body found in Waco, Texas, as Patrick Dennehy, a player on Baylor University's basketball team. Teammate Carlton Dotson would later be charged in the murder, and a cover-up would lead head coach Dave Bliss to resign.

SEPT. 15 | Five days before the Women's World Cup begins, the WUSA folds.

OCT. 14 | With the Chicago Cubs five outs from the National League pennant, lifelong Cubs fan Steve Bartman interferes with outfielder Moises Alou as he tries to catch a foul ball in Game 6 of the National League Championship series. The Florida Marlins went on to capture

the playoff series.

DEC. 4 | Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants testifies in a probe centering on THG, a new designer steroid.

DEC. 7 | Southern California's football team, ranked No. 1 in the AP and coaches' football polls, is left out of the Sugar Bowl because Oklahoma and LSU have higher standings in the controversial BCS rankings.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

300/4,000 The Yankees' Roger Clemens earned his 300th career victory and his 4,000th strikeout in what may have been his last season.

6 San Francisco slugger Barry Bonds won his sixth MVP award.

70 The University of Connecticut's women's basketball team extended

its winning streak to 70 games, setting a new NCAA record.

41 million Manchester United sold soccer star David Beckham to Real Madrid for \$41 million in June.

55 National League Cy Young winner Eric Gagne of the L.A. Dodgers converted all 55 of his save chances.



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

THE KISS | BLONDE ON BLONDE: Pop succubus Madonna leaches a fresh batch of stardom out of an unsuspecting Britney Spears at the MTV Music Video Awards. The 44-year-old superstar used this infusion to promote her children's book; all Spears got for her trouble was a new round of accusations that she's not, after all, so innocent.

DOOMED COUPLES



LUCY NICHOLSON/AP

LIZA MINNELLI and **DAVID GEST** split amid accusations of vodka and violence: hers.

ERIC BENET and **HALLE BERRY** needed "time apart," no doubt because he believes there might be a woman hotter than his wife.

BOBBY BROWN was charged with misdemeanor battery in December for allegedly hitting wife **WHITNEY HOUSTON**.

EVAN MARRIOTT and **ZORA ANDRICH** from "Joe Millionaire" found they had nothing in common but \$500,000.

Designer **TOM FORD** and **GUCCI** were unable to work things out.

ETHAN HAWKE dumped **UMA THURMAN** for a 20-year-old starlet because he feared his wife might have been having an affair with Quentin Tarantino. That's what we call prevention.

OVEREXPOSED COUPLES

BENEFITER worried they might have made themselves "too available" to the media. You think?

DEMI MOORE and **ASHTON KUTCHER**. Get a room.

TRISTA REHN and **RYAN SUTTER**. We give it a year.

PARIS HILTON and **NICOLE RICHIE**. Also, Paris and her ego, Paris and her money, Paris and her butt cleavage.



RENE MACURA/AP

IT WAS A BAD YEAR FOR ...



MICHAEL CRABTREE/REUTERS

DAVID BLAINE wasn't the hero he thought he'd become by hovering over the Thames in a box. The Brits weighed in by hurling rotten eggs at him.

FOX NEWS learned the hard way that "fair and balanced" is not the channel's exclusive property. Fair and balanced, fair and balanced, nyah.

Illusionist **ROY HORN** was mangled by one of his beloved white tigers.

RUSH LIMBAUGH resigned for making racially charged remarks, then his maid dropped a dime on his pill-popping. But it's all a liberal conspiracy.

The **WACHOWSKI BROTHERS** lost their mojo.

IT WAS A VERY GAY YEAR

Bravo to "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" (including fashion maven **CARSON KRESSLEY**), which brought fabulousness into Ma and Pa America's den.

ALL MY CHILDREN broke boundaries by airing the first lesbian kiss on a daytime soap.

Proof that America is gay-indifferent? **WILL & GRACE** is sooo 1998.

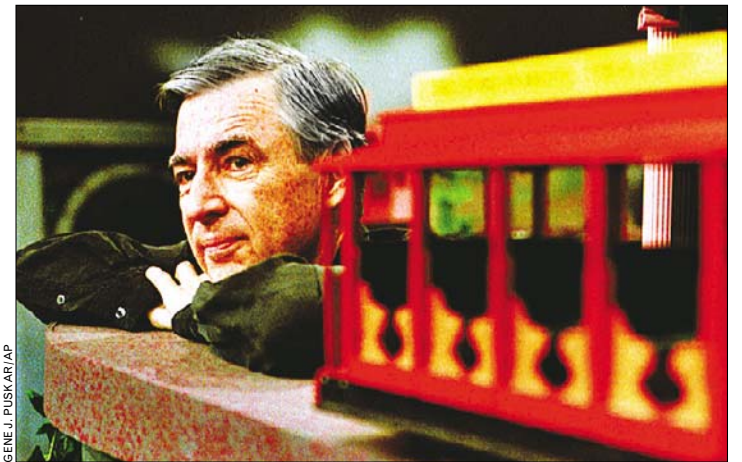
No one hates **ROSIE O'DONNELL** because she's gay; they hate her because she's a blowhard.

TONY KUSHNER and **MARK HARRIS**'s commitment ceremony made the New York Times's tony wedding box.



JENNIFER GRAYLOCK/AP

GOODBYES



GENE J. PUSKARI/AP

FRED ROGERS, 74: Children's show host Mr. Rogers practiced what he preached — always have kindness, tolerance and a decent cardigan.

KATHARINE HEPBURN, 96: Her coltish beauty defined aristocratic grace.

BOB HOPE, 100: He cheered up troops from the South Pacific to the Persian Gulf.

JOHNNY CASH, 71: This was the voice of America — wild, fierce and honest.

GREGORY PECK, 87: He was an acting powerhouse, quietly contained.

WARREN ZEVON, 56: His witty, sardonic songs looked at the dark side of life.

CRIME

To no one's surprise but Elizabeth Taylor's, **MICHAEL JACKSON** was charged with seven counts of child molestation.

PETE TOWNSHEND was arrested for allegedly viewing child porn on the Internet.

PHIL SPECTOR was arrested for the alleged murder of washed-up actress Lana Clarkson.

COURTNEY LOVE was arrested outside an ex-boyfriend's house. Hilarity, as it always does around Love, ensued.

COMEBACKS

ELLEN DEGENERES voiced the year's most beloved fish tale and helmed a hit talk show.

Rock climber **ARON RALSTON** sawed off his right arm with a pocketknife while pinned by a boulder.

GARY COLEMAN ran for governor of California and got more attention than votes.

Strategy-free, food-sabotaging **SANDRA DIAZ-TWINE** came from behind in the fifth season of "Survivor."



Cars

Blue Tomorrow

INCOMING | General Motors Corp. unveiled its 2005 Chevrolet Cobalt on Monday at the Greater Los Angeles Auto Show, the latest new Chevy in a revamped line designed to boost the brand's sales to 3 million units, a level last reached in 1979.

The Cobalt is Chevy's entry in the premium small car market and will compete against the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic. It will debut in the fall with two versions for the 2005 model year.

Both the Cobalt sedan and the coupe will feature wood on the dashboard, leather interior and other premium features such as satellite radio, MP3 player and the company's OnStar emergency notification system. Pricing was not announced.

The Cobalt is one of 10 new or



TRUE HUE: Its name and the above photo aside, not all Chevy Cobalts will be blue.

revamped Chevys to be introduced over a 20-month period. Chevrolet accounts for more than half of GM's annual volume. The brand sold 2.6 million vehicles last year, down from 2.7 million in 2001.

The launch is part of a wider move by GM to fend off Asian

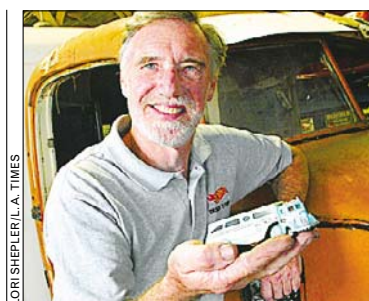
competitors, especially to its truck and SUV lines. To aid in that fight, GM will add three new models to its Saturn brand by 2007, including a small sports car. GARY GENTILE (AP)

New year, new status symbol: But do you buy a Mini Cooper or a Hummer H2? washingtonpost.com/cars can help.

Hottest Wheels Around

TOYS | After 35 years and 3 billion toy car sales, Hot Wheels is in a world of its own. Although sales have fallen and flattened out in the last two years, no one comes close to Hot Wheels' estimated \$275 million in annual sales. Nor can anyone boast the hard-core adult following, probably 25,000 strong.

Automakers also have seen the value of Hot Wheels: They like seeing their designs immortalized in toy form and have discovered that having a detailed die-cast model in stores at the same time a new car hits the market can help pump up sales. In recent years, automakers have started providing Mattel with their highly secret designs.



Larry Wood has been Hot Wheels' chief designer for 34 years.

Mattel gains access to automakers' design vaults after paying a licensing fee to take an early look at, say, the next Ford Mustang or the new Chrysler PT Cruiser.

And although auto magazines pay small fortunes to freelance "spy" photographers for pictures of what may or may not be the long-awaited 2005 redesign of the Chevrolet Corvette, Hot Wheels designers have long known exactly what it looks like. "I've got all the plans in my computer," Hot Wheels design chief Larry Wood said. JOHN O'DELL (L.A. TIMES)

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Entertainment

WeekendPass

Heavy Metal

The 2004 Washington Auto Show promises to be a dream come true

OUT & ABOUT | So we're having this dream, see, and all we can remember is near the end, when women's billiard champion and empress of our hearts Jeanette Lee is standing on a platform in front of the snazziest Chevy Bel Air — a low-slung looker with no top on — since the bulbously beautiful 1956 model.

As the platform slowly revolves, Chuck Brown's band vamps, with Chuck bending in to the mike to

softly ask, over and over ad infinitum, "Do you come with the car?" "Do you come with the car?" "Do you come with the car?"

But what if it wasn't a dream, ladies and gentlemen? What if just such a mad affair, some sort of "2004 Washington Auto Show," was taking place in this very town?

Imagine family-friendly fun, soap stars mingling with professional athletes while bands play, visitors trying their hands at virtual golf, and cars and trucks preening silently on platforms, their curves enhanced by those of the ever-smiling young women who fend off the



JAMES A. PARCELL/TWP

THIS YEAR'S MODEL: You're never too young to appreciate the beauty of a Lexus.

question, asked over and over, ad infinitum, "Do you come with the car?" "Do you come with the car?" "Do you come with the car?" Through Jan. 4. (EXPRESS)

2004 Washington Auto Show, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW; adults \$10, children 6-12 \$5, children under 6 free; www.washingtonautoshow.com.

FAMILY | FRIENDLY

Dennis Regan | Join comedian Regan, a frequent guest on both "The Tonight Show" and "Late Night With David Letterman," for New Year's Eve, Improv-style. (The late show includes nibbly bits, a champagne toast and a pass to a future show.)

The Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; 8 and 10:15 p.m., \$30-\$65; 202-296-7008. (Farragut West)

Dance in the Grand Foyer | The Kennedy Center hosts a decorous New Year's Eve party, with dancing on the red carpet and music from two orchestras. The event is for ticket-holders attending a Dec. 31 performance only.

Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; 11 p.m.-1 a.m., free with ticket; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

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Ring Out The Old

MUSEUM EXHIBITS CLOSING THIS WEEKEND
COMPLETE LISTINGS AT WASHINGTONPOST.COM

Myths of St. Petersburg

Decorative works specific to the great Russian city from Hillwood's own collection.

Hillwood Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave. NW; closes Wed., Dec. 31; 202-686-5807.

Gyroscope

Much of the Hirshhorn's permanent collection on parade.

Hirshhorn Museum, Independence Avenue and Seventh Street SW; closes Sun., Jan. 4; 202-357-2700.

DNA: Double Helix

Imagine all the genetic information that could fit into this 8-foot-high model of the double helix.

Arts and Industries Building, 900 Jefferson Drive, SW; closes Wed., Dec. 31; 202-357-1729.

Directions: Dan Steinhilber

Magical works out of recyclables from the local installation artist and sculptor.

Hirshhorn Museum, Independence Avenue and Seventh Street SW; closes Sun., Jan. 4; 202-357-2700.



Dan Steinhilber's "Untitled" (2002), a cumulous puff of inflated garbage bags.

Fakes, Forgeries, Facsimiles

Inauthentic Shakespearean relics of varying degrees of credibility.

Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol St. SE; closes Sat., Jan. 3; 202-544-4600.

Diana Walker: Photojournalist

Snapshots of America's first families at ease, recorded by Time magazine's White House photographer.

Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue; closes Sun., Jan. 4; 202-357-2700.

Love, on the Rocks

MUSIC | At an early age, "Surreal Neil" found he had a very special, almost Harry Potter-cool talent: He could sing like Neil Diamond with uncanny precision and a whole lotta soul.

We know, we know. Just take that gold and retire, right? But that wasn't enough for Surreal Neil, who recruited his friends Erik Diamond, Rama Diamond, James Diamond, Matt Diamond and Vince Diamond to form a band of "stunt musicians." Then he gargled with a little lemon and honey and took his show on the road.

Super Diamond is not a cheesy cover band. It's a sociologically and musically sensitive tribute to the many phases (and silky shirts) of the inimitable Neil Diamond, from his perfect pop sparklers of the '60s to his tear-stained arena rock to his late-period showbiz.

And get this: Folks love Super Diamond — Neil fans, curious GenYers, boomer parents with their rappy grown kids. They see S.D. again and again, to reinforce something they knew all along — that amid so much love no one, least of all Neil himself, can be a solitary man. (EXPRESS)

With the Upper Crust; 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Wed., Dec. 31, \$50; 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)



YOU DON'T BRING US FLOWERS: Surreal Neil, center, and his Diamond brothers.

TONIGHT | D.C.'S ROCKIN' NEW YEAR'S EVE

Black Cat | Peaches O'Dell and her orchestra, DJ Mark Zimin, Cigarbox Planetarium, Tony Anthony and His Malvivants (lounge).

1811 14th Street, NW; 8:30 p.m., \$20; 202-667-7960. (U St.-Cardozo)

Birchmere | The Seldom Scene, with the Good Deale Bluegrass Band featuring Mike Auldridge (bluegrass and folk).

3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 8:30 p.m., \$35; 703-549-7500.

State Theatre | Marcia Ball (blues).

220 N. Washington Ave., Falls Church; 9 p.m., \$35; 703-237-0300. (East Falls)

Velvet Lounge | Cool Candy,

Hard Tomorrows and Alfonso Velez with New Band Monopoly (indie rock).

915 U St. NW; 8 p.m., \$7; 202-462-3213. (U St.-Cardozo)

Bohemian Caverns | Nasar Abadey, Earl Jones, and Zwei and Fertile Ground (jazz).

2003 11th Street, NW; 6 p.m., \$80; 202-299-0800. (U St.-Cardozo)

Blues Alley | Ahmad Jamal Trio and the Keter Betts Group (jazz).

1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 8 and 10 p.m.; 202-337-4141.

Iota | Last Train Home (roots-rock). Evening includes a champagne toast, party favors and Hoppin' John.

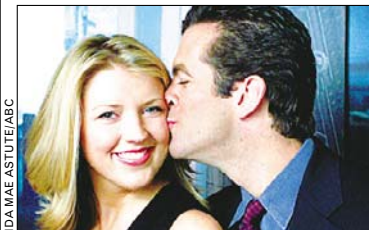
2832 Wilson Blvd, Arlington; 6 p.m., \$30; 703-522-8340. (Court House)

He's Young, Single & Freeloading

THEME PARTIES | Why did Andrew and Jen break up? What went wrong with Aaron and Helene? Well, for an expert opinion, ask an expert.

Alex Michel was ABC's original "Bachelor," or "O.B." — bland, handsome, moneyed and romantic (in a roses-champagne-hot tubs way). At tonight's romance-themed event, Michel will offer his take on other reality romances, answer questions (like this press-release suggestion: "What qualities in [your] personal and work lives make [you] such a great catch?") and sell his company to 12 bachelorinas who'll share a toast with the O.B. (EXPRESS)

Westin Grand Hotel, 2350 M Street, 9:30 p.m., \$139 early ticket sale; 202-686-6085 or www.dcyoungpro.com.



Alex smooches Amanda, who tried but failed to lasso the original "Bachelor."

Vegas, Baby! | In Vegas, they have "Capital Caucus" parties.

Hilton Washington Embassy Row, 2015 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 8 p.m., \$125; www.xsinteractive.com

Retro New Year's Eve | Slip on those shoulder pads and get out your Filofaxes.

Bar Rouge, 1315 16th St. NW; 202-232-8000; Helix Lounge, 1430 Rhode Island Ave. NW; 202-462-9001; Topaz Bar, 1733 N St. NW; 202-393-3000.

Salsa Metro.com | Shake it to the sound of salsa, with lessons, a performance and a toast.

Hilton Silver Spring, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; \$65, \$80 with dinner; 20638-6464 or www.salsametro.com

Masquerade | A South American fantasia, with cool drinks and DJs Mario and Oscar.

Diva, 1350 I St. NW, 11 p.m., \$20 per person, \$15 per couple; 202-289-7300.

Bootlegger's Ball | Lulu's goes back in time — food, champagne toast, gaming tables and live swing.

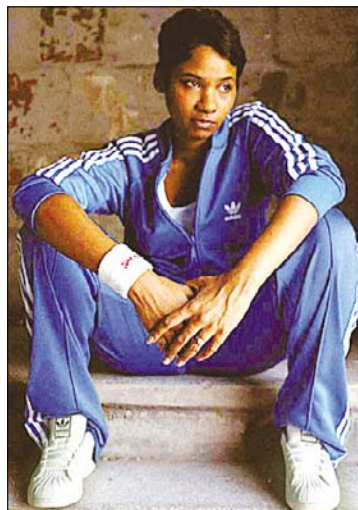
Lulu's Club Mardi Gras, 1217 22nd St. NW, 9:30 p.m., \$35; 202-861-5858.

Saving the Best for Later

OUT & ABOUT | Want to skip the forced gaiety of the 31st and save yourself for a truly rockin' celebration? We have just the show: the Okayplayer Winter Break Tour with the Roots, Mr. Lif, Pete Rock, Skillz and others. Amid all this turntable testosterone and mike-stand macho, one "player" sticks out.

Jean Grae may be the baddest chick on the D.C. hip-hop scene. Her understated sexiness is a draw, but her verbal skills pack the punch of a wrecking ball, and she's an accomplished beatmaker.

Grae has been embraced by the indie hip-hop world as a treasured rarity — a female who can passionately bust on any topic without



The prime of Miss Jean Grae, master beatmaker and quick-lipped rapper.

debasing herself. In the late '90s, she was a member of the trio Natural Resources. Then known as What? What?, she was destined for more than mix-show airplay.

Her "The Bootleg of the Bootleg EP" is bubbling with ferocious couplets and witty lyrical winners. On a nameless hidden jam, she rhymes, "This is a mind of a visionary/Imprisoned in matrimony with rappin' and shackled to stacks of tracks that hold me." (CRAIG SMITH)

9:30 Club; 815 V St. NW; Thu.-Fri., Jan. 1-2, \$30; 202-393-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)

Get Down Tonight: A complete list of New Year's Eve events can be found at [washingtonpost.com/entertainment](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment).

Classifieds

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Weekend Pass Entertainment

ON TV TONIGHT

GET 'ARRESTED'

Fox offers four opportunities to catch up with its innovative comedy **ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT**. Jason Bateman stars as the harried good son in an irresponsible clan of rich folks.

On tonight's episodes, Michael falls for his brother's girl (8 p.m.); and fights for the family firm (8:30 p.m.); Lucille takes on her romantic rival (9 p.m.); and the family holds a pathetic charity auction (9:30 p.m.).

SWIMMING WITH LAWYERS

ADULT SWIM (11 p.m., Cartoon Network) Don't miss the New Year's Eve bash from this clever, sometimes racy and always strange cartoon series.

Tonight's special kicks off with two episodes of **AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE** (11 p.m.). It features three fast-food products who get caught up in adventures when not lounging around their New Jersey house, swimming in their pool or annoying their hairy landlord, Carl.

My other favorite Adult Swim cartoon is **HARVEY BIRDMAN: ATTORNEY AT LAW** (12:15 a.m.). Harvey is a superhe-

ro-turned-lawyer who specializes in defending other cartoon characters. Tonight's episode makes sly satirical cracks at homeland security, surveillance and paranoia as Harvey defends vintage cartoon hero Secret Squirrel after his arrest for public indecency.

BALLS DROPPING

Looking for more traditional New Year's Eve fare? There's always:

DICK CLARK'S NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' EVE 2004 (10 p.m., ABC) features clips from KISS, Bon Jovi, Elton John, Avril Lavigne and other acts. Hilary Duff hosts **NEW YEAR'S EVE 2004** (10:30 p.m., MTV).



BOB D'AMICO/ABC

Inevitable host Dick Clark is now officially younger than Old Father Time.

Ryan Seacrest hosts **AMERICA'S PARTY** (11 p.m., Fox), featuring performances from Ashanti, Metallica, Puddle of Mudd, Keith Urban and DJ Funkmaster Flex.

OR: OLD NEWS CLIPS

THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS MOMENTS ON LIVE TV (8 p.m., NBC, TV-PG) offers gaffes from celebrities and VIPs, including President George Bush and Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

CULT CHOICE

Olivia Newton-John stars in the ghostly 1980 roller-disco musical spectacular **XANADU** (10 p.m., WE). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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<p>CINEPLEX ODEON WISCONSIN AVE CINEMAS 4000 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W. 202-244-0882</p> <p>CHEAPER BY DOZEN (PG) (1:00 3:10 5:20) 7:30 9:40 PAYCHECK (PG-13) (1:30 4:10) 7:10 9:45 MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (1:50 5:10) 8:10 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) (1:20 4:00) 7:00 9:50 LAST SAMURAI (R) (1:40 5:00) 8:00 ELF (PG) (1:10 3:20 5:30) BAD SANTA (R) 7:40 9:55</p>	<p>CINEPLEX ODEON OUTER CIRCLE 4849 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W. M TENLEYTOWN / AU 202-244-3117</p> <p>THE COOLER (R) (1:45 4:15) 7:00 9:15 BARBARIAN INVASIONS (R) (2:00 4:30) 7:15 9:30</p>	<p>CINEPLEX ODEON SHIRLINGTON 7 2772 SOUTH RANDOLPH 703-671-0978</p> <p>LOST IN TRANSLATION (R) (1:10) 6:50 COLD MOUNTAIN (R) (1:00 3:50) 6:40 9:40 LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (4:00) 9:00 THE COOLER (R) (2:00 4:20) 7:10 9:20 IN AMERICA (PG-13) (1:30 4:10) 6:30 9:10 CALENDAR GIRLS (PG-13) (1:40 4:50) 7:20 9:50 BIG FISH (PG-13) (1:20 4:30) 7:00 9:30 SAND AND FOG (R) (1:50 4:40) 7:30 10:00</p>	<p>CINEPLEX ODEON DUPONT CIRCLE 5 1350 19TH STREET, NW 202-972-9556</p> <p>21 GRAMS (R) (1:50 4:30) 7:20 10:00 MYSTIC RIVER (R) (12:50 3:50) 6:50 9:50 LOST IN TRANSLATION (R) (1:40 4:00) 7:00 9:20 IN AMERICA (PG-13) (1:20 3:40) 7:10 9:30 THE COOLER (R) (1:00 3:20 5:40) 7:50 10:05</p>	<p>CINEPLEX ODEON UPTOWN 3426 CONNECTICUT AVE. - NW 1/2 BLOCK SOUTH M CLEVELAND PARK 202-966-8805</p> <p>RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13) (10:00 2:15) 6:30 10:45</p>

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SHOWTIMES FOR - TIMES FOR 12/31/03

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21 GRAMS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1050 145 435) 730 1030	LORD OF RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING (PG-13) (1015 1100 1145 245 330 415) 715 800 845	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) (100 410) 720 1020 LAST SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 340) 705 1030	
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN (PG) DIG ★ (1145 210 440) 720 950	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE (PG-13) (1205 340) 710 1020 LAST SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 350) 745	ELF (PG) (1115 145 420) 1025 LOVE ACTUALLY (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 350) 715 1025	
MONA LISA SMILE (PG-13) DIG (1045 1225 130 310 415) 610 705 855 1000	BAD SANTA (R) - ID REQ'D 740 1025 ELF (PG) (1050 130 410)		

Times For 12/31/03

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WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY

“... Brian DePalma's new film is a valentine to the two directors he loves most: Alfred Hitchcock and Brian DePalma ...

... It looks like a movie, it sounds like a movie, you see it in a movie theater, but it's not a movie. It's like a 2-1/2 hour preview ...

... Other than a distressing lack of quality hair care products, things are fine in Middle Earth ...”

Stephen Hunter | Movie Critic

Writing of hits, hoots and horrors.
Fridays in Style.

The Washington Post

XP016 3x3.5

Playback

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

IN "MAD COW MEAT HITS 8 STATES," (Dec. 29) we read that Agriculture Department officials said "[m]eat from a Holstein sick with mad cow disease ... poses no public health risk." Yet we read later that five tons of meat are being recalled.

Further, on page 3, we read in "Mad Cow Find Sparks Worry" that two dozen nations have banned the import of U.S. beef. Why all the fuss if it "poses no public health risk"?

—JASON FORD
Washington, D.C.

IMAGINE MY SHOCK and delight at seeing "Farscape" make the 10 best TV shows list ("Cable's Best, Networks' Mess," Dec. 29). As a long time "Scaper," it's great to see this show get the attention it so richly deserves.

—DIANE BLUMENTHAL
Gaithersburg, Md.



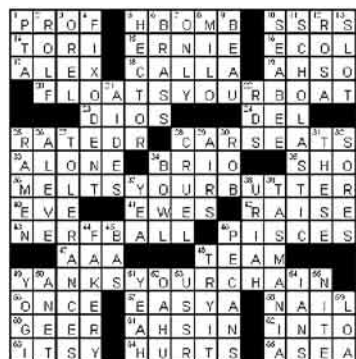
SPEAK UP: Got a story to tell? We want to hear it. Express is accepting guest column submissions from readers.

Submissions should be between 200 and 250 words and must include all the usual contact information. We'll give preference to columns about living in or commuting to D.C. — in other words, less politics and griping, more observation and reflection. Columns will run occasionally, as space allows. Send submissions by e-mail to inbox@readexpress.com.

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Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

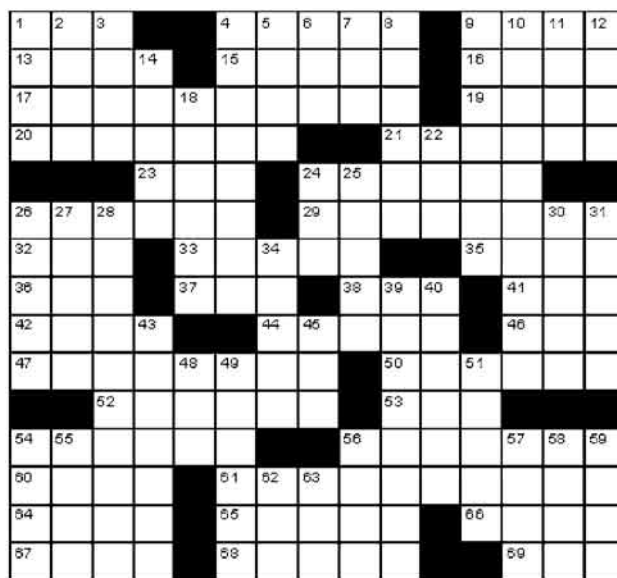
Yesterday's Solution



Crossword Puzzle: Clothes Line | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Road runner
- 4 Elude the tag, in a way
- 9 "Hey, Mister!"
- 13 "Lucky Jim" author, Kingsley
- 15 Flower's protective leaves
- 16 Sooners' st.
- 17 Title carrier
- 19 Thailand, formerly
- 20 Put in place
- 21 Come into existence
- 23 It's picked by the picky
- 24 Triumph at last
- 26 It stops a run
- 29 Backed
- 32 Freudian topic
- 33 Dived into an empty pool, e.g.
- 35 WWII Fr. battle site
- 36 Chicken-king connection
- 37 Brit. military decoration
- 38 Tokyos' former name
- 41 Aurora's counterpart
- 42 College mil. group
- 44 Proverbial battlers
- 46 Do an impression
- 47 Attacks like a sea eagle
- 50 Disguised, in a way



- 52 Fuddy-duddies
- 53 "How horrid!"
- 54 "Hogan's Heroes" setting
- 56 Spinning-wheel attachment
- 60 Loser in an fictional upset
- 61 Game for ringers
- 64 Beggar's request

- 65 Kind of offer
- 66 Ooze
- 67 Map section
- 68 Load of baloney
- 69 Some people reach for it
- DOWN**
- 1 Members of the hack pack
- 2 Mine, in Marseille

- 3 Attica uprising
- 4 Spreads around
- 5 "Arsenic and Old ___"
- 6 Variety
- 7 Easter egg application
- 8 Reach
- 9 Pretenders
- 10 Chophouse offering

- 11 Coal mine waste
- 12 Like a pussycat
- 14 Striped stinker
- 18 In detention
- 22 Field call
- 24 Not much
- 25 Word with card or finger
- 26 Goes like the dickens
- 27 Subtly illuminated
- 28 Bearer of heraldic devices
- 30 Marry in haste
- 31 Delivered a drug
- 34 Perez or O'Donnell
- 39 In a coy manner
- 40 Plains Indians
- 43 The Fonz, compared to the rest
- 45 Printing measures
- 48 Org. for the Shark and Tiger
- 49 Tourist magnets
- 51 Bygone rulers
- 54 "Pygmalion" writer
- 55 Word with folk or fairy
- 56 Royal Russian ruler
- 57 Forest females
- 58 Onionlike plant
- 59 Catch sight of
- 62 Scrap of food
- 63 "Blame It On ___" (Caine film)

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope | Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — In response to a direct challenge, you will be able to come up with new ideas that surprise even you and your most stalwart supporters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — This is a good day to make the best out of leftovers — in the refrigerator or on your desk. Even old ideas can be rewarding if used properly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You are likely to be moody and changeable. Certain endeavors are certainly unsuitable for you as a result. Be choosy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You are perhaps the only individual who can escape the bounds of practicality and routine.

Enjoy this chance to soar above all others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You have every reason to feel good about what you are doing these days. Enjoy some unexpected recognition in another area.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your input is not only important, but also essential. Let creative ideas flow. You know what you're talking about; others will listen.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You are likely to need specific instructions before you can carry out an important assignment. Time is of the essence, however.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Stop, look and listen. Discover something that is widely known by those around you. Jump on the bandwagon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You are up against considerable opposition, but you have what it takes to prevail, especially with a good friend at your side.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You can tailor your work to suit those you most want to impress. In the end, however, you'll want to please everyone — won't you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You should be able to ease tensions on the home front while, at the same time, increase your earning-power at the workplace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Be sure to show your gratitude to those who are trying to help you — even though you may not use all the solutions offered you.

LIVE ONLINE

On the Screen

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Washington Post film critic **DESSON THOMSON** was online Monday to discuss the current crop of movies.

What's the word on "Cold Mountain?" I think it may be the most serious competition for "Lord of the Rings" at Oscar time.

Let me say this (and this is my opinion, of course): Everyone in the cast is good *except* the two leads. Renee Zellweger steals the movie. She owns it. But Nicole and Jude, well, they didn't do it for me.

If the Globes are an indication of what will be nominated, then the best picture ought to be between "Lord of the Rings" and "Master and Commander," or even "Lost in Translation." I wouldn't even nominate "Mountain." It's nowhere near my personal top 10 list.

I saw "Bad Santa" over the weekend. It was wholly inappropriate. I couldn't stop laughing. Does this make me a bad person?

No, it makes you a person with an elastic ability to appreciate black comedy. I loved it myself.

I saw "The Cooler" this weekend, and while it was really good on several levels, the violence bothered me. I had to leave twice, and I don't usually do that. I think it was the violence against female characters that bothered me most. No reviews that I read mentioned this aspect of the film, so I wasn't prepared for it. What do you think?

I too found the violence horrible. Macy's performance was the best element in the film, I thought.

Any buzz on indie film actress Melanie Griffith? When's her next film out? I love her work.

Her upcoming projects are: "The Night We Called It a Day" (which stars Dennis Hopper as Frank Sinatra!), a heist triangle-romance called "Tempo" and a poker-hustler drama set in L.A. called "Shade."

Friday on Live Online:

2 P.M.: Cartoonist Nick Galifianakis will discuss how he comes up with the visual manifestations of Carolyn Hax's advice column.

express

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